

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 10, and 16 as indicated.

Please cancel Claims 3, 11 and 12 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of adaptively managing bandwidth among a plurality of services contending for bandwidth on an optical link having a bandwidth capacity, the method comprising:

allocating bandwidth to each service contending for bandwidth of the optical link;

computing for each service a utilization metric representing a measure of current usage of a maximum allowed bandwidth for that service, the utilization metric determined by dividing an average number of frames per second by a maximum number of frames per second allocated to the service;

computing for each service a current utilization metric representing a measure of current usage of the allocated bandwidth by that service; and

allocating additional bandwidth to one of the services in response to the current utilization metric of that service if bandwidth usage of the optical link is currently at less than full capacity, otherwise balancing the bandwidth allocation between the services in response to the current utilization metric of at least one of the services if the bandwidth usage of the optical link is currently at full capacity, such that the utilization metrics of the services are made approximately equal to each other.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each service is a Gigabit Ethernet service.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating an adjustment limit parameter with each service to control when to increase the bandwidth allocated to that service.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of allocating additional bandwidth to one of the services occurs if the current utilization metric exceeds a threshold based on the adjustment limit parameter for that service.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the additional bandwidth allocated to one of the services is a granularity of an STS-1 path.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising using Link Capacity Adjustment Schemes (LCAS) technology to allocate additional bandwidth to one or the services when usage of the optical link is at less than full capacity.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating a full utilization metric with each service to determine a maximum bandwidth allocation for each service and a priority between the services to be used when balancing.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating, for each service, a services-of-interest list for identifying one or more services with which that service contends for the bandwidth of the optical link.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of adaptively managing bandwidth among a plurality of services contending for bandwidth on an optical link having a bandwidth capacity, the method comprising:

allocating bandwidth to each service contending for bandwidth on the optical link;

determining for each service a current utilization metric representing a current usage by that service of the bandwidth allocated to that service;

computing for each service a utilization metric representing a measure of current usage of a maximum allowed bandwidth for that service, the utilization metric determined by dividing an average number of frames per second by a maximum number of frames per second allocated to the service, and

balancing the bandwidth allocation between the services if the current utilization metric of at least one of the services exceeds a specified threshold and usage of the bandwidth of the optical link is currently at full capacity, such that the utilization metrics of the services are made approximately equal to each other.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of balancing includes removing bandwidth from one of the services and allocating the removed bandwidth to another one of the services.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising associating an adjustment limit parameter with each service and allocating additional bandwidth to one of the services if the current utilization metric exceeds a threshold based on the adjustment limit parameter for that service and usage of the bandwidth of the optical link is currently less than full capacity.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising associating a full utilization metric with each service to determine a maximum bandwidth allocation for each service and a priority between the services to be used when balancing.

16. (Currently Amended) A network, comprising:  
a plurality of network elements connected to each other by optical links;  
a first path for carrying traffic associated with a first service through the network,  
the first path extending through the network over at least one of the optical links;  
a second path for carrying traffic associated with a second service, the second path  
extending through the network over at least one of the optical links, the second path having a link  
in common with the first path;

wherein a first one of the network elements allocates a portion of the bandwidth of the common link to the first service and a second one of the network elements allocates a portion of the bandwidth of the common link to the second service, each of the first and second network elements determining for the first and second services, respectively, a current utilization metric representing a current usage by that service of the bandwidth allocated to that service, each of the first and second network elements determining for the first and second services, respectively, a utilization metric representing ~~a measure of current usage of a maximum allowed bandwidth for that service, the utilization metric determined by dividing an average number of frames per second by a maximum number of frames per second allocated to the service~~, the first and second network elements balancing the bandwidth allocated to the services if the current utilization metric of at least one of the services exceeds a specified threshold and usage of the bandwidth of the common link is currently at full capacity, such that the utilization metrics of the services are made approximately equal to each other.

17. (Original) The network of claim 16, further comprising a central controller for sending messages to the network elements that direct the balancing of the bandwidth allocated to the services.

18. (Original) The network of claim 16, wherein the network is a ring network.

19. (Original) The network of claim 16, wherein the network is a linear network.

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20. (Original) The network of claim 16, wherein the first and second network elements each maintain a services-of-interest list for identifying one or more services with which that service contends for the bandwidth of the optical link.